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US debt committee admits failure to reach deal

WASHINGTON - Lawmakers heading a US congressional "supercommittee" acknowledged late yesterday that the panel had failed to craft a deal to rein in galloping US debt now above \$15 trillion.

"We are deeply disappointed that we have been unable to come to a bipartisan deficit reduction agreement," Democratic Senator Patty Murray and Republican Representative Jeb Hensar-

ling said in a joint statement.

While a breakthrough could still happen before the committee's Wednesday midnight deadline, it was considered unlikely that the group could bridge deep partisan differences over taxes and spending.

How financial markets will react to such a lack of progress is a tough call, partly because investors have been distracted by Europe's more immediate debt crisis.

'Pizza' party codeword may have doomed CIA spies

All the CIA's Lebanon spies wanted was a slice. What they got, allegedly, was a big intelligence failure.

Hezbollah may have just rolled up the CIA's network of spies devoted to cracking the secrets of the Lebanese Shiite extremist group. If so, it's because of one of the stupidest, least secure code words in history.

According to ABC News, Hezbollah operatives figured out that CIA informants who had infiltrated the Iranian proxy group were meeting with their agency handlers at a Beirut Pizza Hut. How could Hezbollah deduce that location? "The CIA used the codeword 'PIZZA' when discussing where to meet with the agents," ABC reports.

The agency is reportedly fearful for the informants' lives. "If they were genuine spies, spying against Hezbollah, I don't think we'll ever see them again," retired CIA officer Robert Baer told ABC.

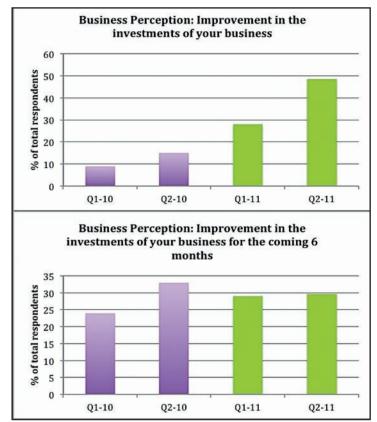
An anonymous U.S. official denies to ABC that CIA's Hezbollah network actually met in a Pizza Hut.

Fitch Ratings proves Aruban Commerce has confidence in Aruba!

ORANJESTAD -- The good news is in...Fitch rating of Standard & Poors shows that Aruba has improved her A-rating with a projection for an A-rating stable projection for the near future. This indicates that Aruba has succeeded in maintaining her position in the group of countries considered attracive for investors with little to no investment risk.

Agencies such as Standard & Poors evaluates such factors as economic position, financial market, level of public and private investment, country reserves and political stability. Such an evaluation is crucial in the process of facilitating investments.

Many countries place a great deal of attention on obtaining or maintaining their rating. They especially desire an A-rating, which is what Aruba has today. The efforts of both the public sector and the pri-



AAA: Extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments

AA: Very strong capacity to meet financial commitments

A: Strong capacity to meet financial commitments

BBB: Adequate capacity to meet financial commitments
BBB-: Considered lowest investment grade by market participants
BB+: Considered highest speculative grade by market participants.

Source: Standard and Poors

vate sector is what has helped Aruba to achieve such high marks from Standard & Poors.

It is no secret that ever since the world economic crisis, Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poors have become much more rigid in their evaluations. The evaluation is an intensive process covering different departments and government institutions. There are countries in our region that are having great difficulty maintaining their positon.

The Standard & Poors evaluation reveals that Aruba is a country with very little risk

and with resolute capablity to comply with her debts. Countries with this kind of rating offers a solid investment climate for investors.

This simply means that Aruba and companies desirous of investing here will benefit from favorable interests from the international financial market, compared to countries that do not

have this type of rating.

Obviously, this makes Aruba very attractive for doing business.

In view of the challenges worldwide, Aruba definitely stands to benefit from the positive news of our A-rating by Standard & Poors. An evaluation by Standard & Poors is one of the first factors considered by an international investor. This gives an investor the assurance that the level of risk is extremely low in such a country.

Continued on page 4





Our community must contribute in Marilinda Croes graduates protecting children from all forms of labor



ORANJESTAD -- This past Sunday the world celebrated International Children's Day. This was a very special day on which special attention was given to our children who are the future of all nations.

Since June 2011, Treaty 182 which deals with the prohibition and immediate action to eliminate all forms of childhood labor, is a valid Treaty for Aruba as well. As a matter of fact Aruba and Holland are the only countries in the Dutch Kingdom that have embraced this Treaty.

The Dutch Kingdom ratifies the Treaties and Aruba requests to have them implemen-

Treaty 182 which deals with the worst forms of child labor.

Treaty 182 was presented ratified this Treaty on the 14th

ted for our island as well. Aruba currently subscribes to 33 Labor Treaties of the ILO (Internationla Labor Organizations). Two of these Treaties are directed especially toward children. Treaty 138 is one which deals with the minimum working age (15 years with limited exception for 14 years). Another Treaty is

on June 17, 1999 during the 87th meeting of the ILO at Geneva. This Treaty was accorded on the 19th of November 2000. The Dutch Kingdom

of February 2002 and Aruba became part of the process ever since June 22nd 2011.

The 182 Treaty requires us to prevent the worst forms of child labor, and to provide assistance to pull children from the worst forms of labor,to mention: protitution, child pornography, child slavery and forced labor, using children for criminal activity and from work that interferes with their health and well being. Countries must do whatever it takes to prevent children from being used for these forms of labor and other forms as well. Treaty 182 is considered one of the most cardinal treaties of the ILO as it contains fundamental norms and human rights.

Minister Oduber reported that there are no figures for child labor cases on Aruba. Or, for cases of the worst forms of labor on Aruba. The Department of Labor has preliminary information which they have received from different government organizations and from several foundations.

The information collected reveals that there is a general lack of knowledge on this matter and on exactly what should be considered child labor. Hence the reason for making the community more aware of what child labor is. Figures are important to have...this is especially important if we are to comply with the ILO Treaty.

While there are no concrete cases of child labor on Aruba, there are isolated incidents of children working. There are children who are not attending school because the mother has to work and the child(ren) must remain at home to care for other member of the family.

Continued on page 3

at University of Groningen



11-11-11 was also an unforgettable day for Marilinda Croes. On this day she received her Bachelors Degree in Economics at the University of Groningen. Her proud parents, Mario Croes and Nilda Koolman, and the rest of the family members congratulate her and wish her all the best in her further studies, as she is now ready to go for her Masters in 2012.

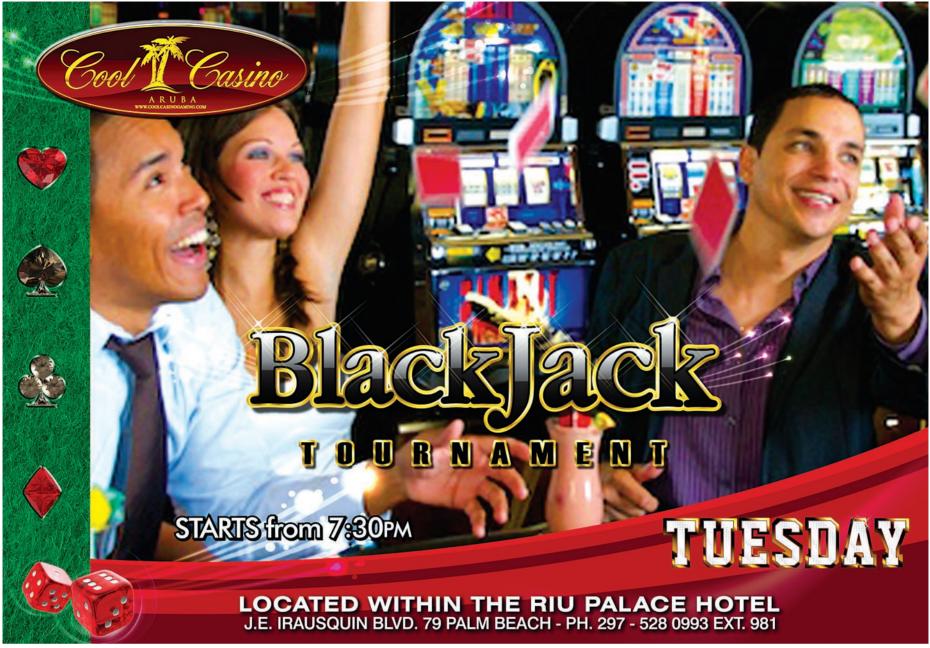
A special thanks goes out to everyone who has helped Marilinda along the way.

Marilinda is an ex-student of Pius X School and Colegio Arubano.

Joining Marilinda on this special occasion were her close friends Leo de Graaf, Adrienne Tromp, Jairo Yarzagaray and Israel Ortega.

THE MORNING NEWS congratulates Marilinda and wishes her the best on the road to obtain her Masters.





A Happy Community Conference to take place on Aruba!

ORANJESTAD -- Plans are in the works for a Happy Community Conference to take place here on December 6,7 and 8. The government recently explained the purpose of the conference and indicated who will be the speakers for this event. Most of the speakers are international personalities who have written on the interesting topic of happy communities. Others have developed important projects on the theme, while still others have contributed in practical ways to community understanding, to the idea of community solidarity.

The government considers

it important to include in the organization of this conference, people form the areas of athletics, health, the social arena, and from education. The reason is that all of these areas work together to fortify the vision of a sustainable society. The University of Aruba and the NGO's of Aruba are working together to organize this important conference.

It is believed that such a conference will help Aruba to concentrate on our civic responsibility, while at the same time place Aruba on the international platform as was the case with the recently held Green Aruba Conference.

Keynote speaker to open the conference will be the renowned scientist, Robert Putnam who is an expert on the topic of happy communities at the level of Amitai Etzioni.

Professor dr. Tonkens from Europe is known for translating the concept of community endeavor in practical ways for bringing people closer together.

Another renown speaker will be Martin Luther King III. This conference places Aruba, once again, on the international platform on another important component for sustainable development.

Our community must contribute . . .

Continued from page 2

children stay on until late working in supermarkets. Many times these are children in family owned businesses and other similar situations.

With respect to the other forms of child labor; there are very few reported cases. But there are a few instances where parents have allowed their daughters to work as prostititutes for money to help pay

There are also cases where bills. However, because child labor cases should be reported labor is not a matter that we are cognizant of, these cases remain unreported or not registered as child labor situations.

> The Minister is convinced that it is high time that the Aruban community be thoroughly informed about this particular Treaty and of all the ramifications of child labor. This way we can prevent all forms of child labor. All child

to the Department of Labor, Public Prosecutor. Fundacion Respetami or others. The government considers any breach of this Treaty to be very serious and will take appropriate and severe action against any such situation in our comunity. We must do everything possible to protect our children from any form of chid labor.

Concert commemorating 25 years of Status Aparte

ORANJESTAD -- The continuing year-long celebration of the silver anniversary of Aruba's autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom will be marked by a special performance this coming Friday evening, November 25.

Circulo Arubano Pro Arte has organized the concert, featuring Aruban soprano Tica Giel accompanied on the piano by famous pianist from Curacao, Wim Statius Muller; a Caribbean icon of classic music.

Ms. Giel has prepared a special program which will take the audience on a journey through Aruba's musical history; the many influences

of various eras of our heritage will be reflected in the songs performed during the concert. She will sing in Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian and English. For the Amerindian period she will sing the song 'Indian Love Call.'

The second part of the program consists of memorable songs dedicated to composer of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

The concert is at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Entrance is Afls. 25 and tickets are available at DeWit & VanDorp and Plaza Bookshop, and if any left, at the door the night of the concert.

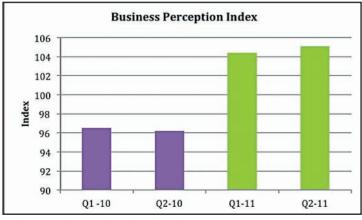




Fitch Ratings

Continued from page 1

A recent "Business Perception Survey" indicates that there is a significant improvement in the confidence and perspective of business owners on Aruba. They are much more optimistic compared to the feeling of the same period in 2010. The following graph illustrates this best:



Source: Central Bank of Aruba

Index value = between 100 and 110: Optimistic perception

Index value = 100: Neutral.

Index value = between 90 and 100: Pessimistic perception

The figures of the first quarter of 2011 of 38.4% of all companies indicated that the investment in their companies improved by only 12% in the same period in 2010. A total of 29.4% are expecting an improvement in their investment for the coming 6 months of 2011.

"I love My Body" 2012 campaign up and running

ORANJESTAD -- Last Thursday, organizers of the "I Love My Body" group launched their 2012 campaign. This program has become a reality as a result of the support received from the government and various organizations in our community. With a relatively small investment, a lot of creativity and a great deal of human effort, this has become an exceptionally successful project.

For 2012, the intention is to expand the program and broaden its cause. The first research group to study will be young people between ages 12 to 19. Never before has there been research done on this particular age group. The goal of the research is to determine what exactly is the life style of this group of young people. And, also to discover what exactly is causing all the problems among our youth. Richard Visser urged the members of



the different foundations to become more active and to work together in unison to help impact our more vulnerable youth.

He believes that the greatest impact this project should have is to see young people becoming leaders and showing others that they are role models who together with other likeminded young people can build a strong Aruba.

They will conduct an inves-

tigation to determine what should be the best system to implement that would function best. It is expected that "I Love My Body 2012" will be a major success, and would hopefully grow and spill over to the other islands and perhaps even to other regions. This has proven to be an innovative way to capture the attention of the youth of tomorrow, says Minister Visser.

Bon Bini Festival is tonight



ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

The festival features the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Nos Cultura, folkloric music by Grupo Betico, dance performance by The Super Dancers, trio performance by Jacobs Family, poem declaimed by Samantha Trinidad, soloist Hilyann Croes and brass band TBS. The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestrad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.



Conversations with island talent:

Michelangelo Koolman; More than looks and charm

Aruba has some remarkably talented and creative performers who earn their living by entertaining at a variety of venues around the island; one such is Michelangelo Koolman, a handsome singer, composer, and guitarist who has attracted attention throughout his career. A number of veteran visitors may remember him as the male star of "Let's Go Latin" in the Crystal Theater for 4 years.

"Music has always been a part of my life," comment Angelo, as he is better known, "even though I came somewhat late to performing professionally, at 26." Popular among many venues on Aruba for his smooth delivery of popular tunes from the likes of Neil Diamond and Bruce Springsteen, his abiding love of the art is many of his own Aruban compositions and the rich, varied rhythms of Latin and regional music.

"I would love to introduce

that henceforth there will be

an additional charge on all

tickets purchased outside of

Aruba. Said charge will not

be applied to tickets pur-

chased in Aruba nor in

come will be the previously

called room tax, which has

been replaced by the new

with different airline compa-

nies, such as Delta, Airtran,

JetBlue and American Air-

Aruba for almost 40 years

and was Aruba's primary air

carrier. However, since their

restructure and having elimi-

nated New York and Boston,

it is JetBlue that has stepped

up to the plate and is now our

According to Oduber, American Airlines has served

AHATA and ATA also met

tourism law.

lines.

The other source of in-



island visitors to the nuances of Latin and Caribbean music," he asserts, "most U.S. and English pop tunes are very linear, where our music has strong African influences and are ploy-rhythmic; I know people who understand and appreciate the complexities of music as an art and a form of communication will love its complexities." He considers performing at events like the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival conducted in October truly gratifying for the rapport he es-

tablished with his audience. "Those people are there for the music, it really gives us the chance to let loose and show what we can do.'

Aside from the music that is his life and passion, he enjoys giving his time to the community, teaching Physical Education to children with special needs, specifically. Recently, he starred in a fundraising concert at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco, to finance his participating in a Dutch version of "American Idol;" the funds would have supported him during the months of the competition.
However, he felt he could not agree to the

terms of being a participant. "They wanted to control my life and career to be eligible, and that just didn't work for me." Instead, he donated all the funds raised from the event to the Aruba Autism Founda-

Angelo performs 5 nights a week at various venues and his videos can be seen on Youtube, performing in English, Spanish and Papiamento. Right now, he is in serious consideration as a featured performer on a project being developed by Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony; it is

possible viewers may enjoy his talents on U.S. television six months from now.

While on Aruba, one can catch Angelo singing and playing guitar at Soprano's in Arawak Gardens, across from the Occidental Resort, on Saturday nights, and in the Arawak Garden's Gazebo on Tuesdays; Sundays he performs at the Holiday Inn, Wednesdays, the Radisson and on Friday evenings at CILO Lounge in the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad. At



most of these venues he happily takes requests and has an incredibly diverse repertoire in several languages. However, if you really want to see him smile, ask for an original work by him, or a Latin number, or some Classic Soul from the '70's, which he personally considers the "Golden Age" of American Pop Music. Whatever you ask for, his highly individual delivery and pleasing voice are sure to make you

by Rosalie Klein

Minister of Tourism meets with Airline companies and IATA



Last week, Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber met with different airline companies and the IATA agency. IATA is the agency that Aruba will be using to represent airlines via their clearing house when the new law on aviation is passed in Parliament, hopefully within the next two months.

This new law is in the context of the new independent ATA, especially as it relates to ATA's financial stature. ATA expects to develop two sources for income, one will be an airlift levy. This entails

THEMORNINGNEWS **Online Now!!** www.themorningnewsaruba.com primary carrier. JetBlue has assumed the responsibility for making more planes available and more airline seats for visitors to Aruba.

Oduber reported having met with Peter Dolara of American and indicated that their meeting with American Airlines was very positive and that their conversations were very open with a positive outlook to the future.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

UN resolution on Iran rights gets record votes

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The UN General Assembly yesterday passed an annual resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iran with a record number of votes in support. The assembly also passed resolutions condemning human rights in North Korea and Myanmar. All received record high backing.

The Iran vote came only three days after the General Assembly condemned an alleged plot to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington -- a plot which the United States accuses Iran of masterminding.

The 193-member assembly passed the resolution condemning "torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" by Iranian authorities with 86 votes in favor, six more than last year, 32 against, down eight from 2010, and 59 abstentions.

The resolution, proposed by Canada, condemned "flogging and amputations" carried out in Iran and deplored a "dramatic increase" in the use of the death penalty, particularly against minors. Many human rights groups say events have deteriorated in Iran over the past year.

Syria, which faces a special human rights vote today over

its deadly crackdown on opposition protests, spoke out strongly for its Iranian ally.

The North Korea vote was passed with 112 votes in favor, 16 against and 55 abstentions. On Myanmar the vote was 98 in favor, 25 against with 63 abstentions.

The assembly raised "very serious concern" over the "torture" and "inhuman conditions of detention, public executions, extra judicial and arbitrary detention" in North Korea.

It also condemned the "existence of a large number of prison camps and the extensive use of forced labor."

The Myanmar resolution welcomed recent talks between democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the military-dominated government, the release of some political prisoners and other changes over the past year.

But the General Assembly said there were still "systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

It highlighted "arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment." It also raised concerns about the treatment of ethnic minorities such as the Karen people.

Saudi presses Syria on Arab League plan



DAMASCUS: Syrians wave their national flag and hold up a huge banner of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as they rally in central Damascus on November 20, 2011, to show their support as he defiantly vowed to fight and die if needed as an Arab League deadline for his government to stop its lethal crackdown on protesters expired with 17 more people killed. Saudi Arabia yesterday pressed the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to conform fully with an Arab League plan aimed at ending his government's deadly crackdown on dissent. A statement after a cabinet meeting urged Damascus to "hold fully to its commitments" in accepting a League plan to end the crisis, and hailed the pan-Arab bloc's efforts to do so. The statement underlined "the importance of ensuring the protection of Syrian civilians and stopping the killings and acts of violence." On Sunday, the League said Arab foreign ministers are to hold crisis talks on Syria in Cairo on Thursday. (AFP PHOTO)

Brazil to fine Chevron more than \$44 million over oil spill

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) -Brazilian authorities said yesterday they planned to impose fines exceeding \$56 million (41 million euros) on US energy giant Chevron for the oil spill from a leaking well it operates off Rio de Janeiro state.

The well, which Chevron said began leaking on November 8, is near the Frade field located some 370 kilometers (230 miles) northeast of Rio de Janeiro, in an area that is a mi-

gratory route for whales and dolphins.

Minc told reporters that Rio de Janeiro state also plans to slap a fine "that could be as high as 30 million reals" and added that there will be additional fines of more than 20 million reals for the damage caused.

And he said that Chevron could be barred from taking part in exploration tenders for five years

US college suspends police chief in pepper spray row

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A California university police chief has been put on administrative leave after the "chilling" use of pepper spray on protesters, caught on video, its chancellor said yesterday.

The effective suspension of University of California, Davis police chief Annette Spicuzza came a day after it announced similar measures against two officers seen in the video.

UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi has rejected calls to resign over the incident Friday, in which an officer walked along a line of seated protestors, spraying them in the head with the chemical usually used

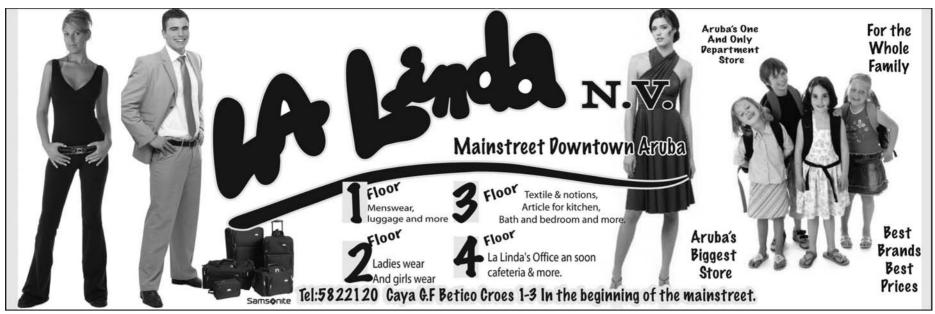


for dispersing crowds.

Several protesters, who were demonstrating against tuition hikes and were part of a group that had erected more than a dozen tents on campus, were sprayed directly in the

face.

Eleven protesters were treated on site for the effects of the pepper spray, while two were taken to a nearby hospital, where they were treated and released, the college said.



Cuba to let farmers to sell directly to hotels

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuban farmers will be allowed to sell their crops directly to hotels and other tourist enterprises for the first time in decades under a reform that goes into effect next month, state media said yesterday.

The reform, part of an overhaul of Cuba's Soviet-style economy, also allows farmers to take their products to market themselves.

Currently, a state-run entity has a monopoly on the sale and distribution of agricultural produce, setting prices and production volumes at the start of each harvest.

The system has led to complaints over the years that crops were slow to reach market and rotted along the way due to inefficient marketing direct sales have been authorized in resolutions issued by the central bank and the ministries of finance and prices, agriculture and tourism.

The reforms, which go into effect December 1, are aimed at cutting losses by simplifying marketing links between producers and consumers, it said.

Additionally, it permits them to "develop mechanisms to supply tourist entities and take better advantage of the potential of all forms of local means of production," Granma said.

The reforms are also aimed at increasing Cuban food production, which the president has said is of "strategic" importance.

Cuba currently imports 80 percent of its foodstuff at a cost of 1.5 billion a year, a heavy burden on the country's

and distribution. Granma, the official communist party newspaper, said meager budget. 14 members of Colombian

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombian authorities have arrested 14 members of a criminal gang wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges, the police said yesterday.

drug gang arrested

Those arrested were part of a network led by Daniel Barrera, also known as "El Loco" ("Madman"), that processed and exported massive amounts of cocaine, and laundered money through emerald mining and real estate.

The group used small airplanes to fly nearly 1.5 tons of cocaine a week out of the country, moving it through air strips in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Honduras, all transit points on a route leading to the United States and Europe.

The gang also shipped drugs out of the Colombian ports of Barranquilla and Cartagena on the Caribbean, police said.







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Hugh Grant, girl's parents make new hacking claims

LONDON (AFP) - Actor Hugh Grant launched a stinging attack on Britain's tabloids yesterday, telling an inquiry that phone hacking was used by a non-Rupert Murdoch paper and that a burglary at his flat led to stories.

On a dramatic first day of evidence in Britain's phonehacking probe, the parents of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler also said Murdoch's News of the World gave them false hope that she was alive by deleting some of her messages.

Grant, best known for his comic roles in films like "Notting Hill," accused the Mail on Sunday newspaper of running a false story on his relationship with socialite Jemima Khan in 2007 that he believed had been obtained by hacking.

In a bravura performance before the judge-led inquiry, which was televised live, Grant urged Britons to stand up to the "cowardly" behaviour of what he called the "privacyinvasion industry."

"Most shocking is that this has been allowed to go on for so long with no one putting their hand up and saying stop,"



AFP photo shows Hugh Grant arriving to attend the Leveson Inquiry in central London, yesterday.

he said, accusing newspaper barons of intimidating the police, lawmakers and govern-

The 51-year-old by turns delivered guips that would not have been out of place in his movies; became testy with the line of questioning by the lawyer for the inquiry; and delivered impassioned criticism of the tabloid press.

His allegation against the Mail on Sunday, owned by the

Nicaragua rejects OAS criticism of Ortega re-election

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Nicaragua yesterday rejected a report by an international observer mission criticizing its presidential election, charging it was part of a US plot to destabilize its leftist government

Nicaraguan Ambassador Dennis Moncada called it "unacceptable and reprehensible that some members of the OAS mission that followed the election provided false information helping those who want to destabilize Nicaragua."

The observer mission from regional body criticized the lack of access to some voting stations and other irregularities in the November 6 elections, in which President Daniel Ortega easily won a third five year term of office.

Moncada, speaking at an OAS meeting here, said the mission's report contained "information that is false and lacks of objectivity." He said Managua would provide evidence to support its charges.

The United States, which criticized the elections as lacking transparence, has called for an OAS debate on the state of democracy in Nicaragua.

UK's Associated Newspapers group, was the second time the inquiry has heard that Murdoch's News of the World was not the only newspaper involved in phone hacking.

Grant said the story -- for which he later won a libel payout -- claimed his relationship with Khan was on the rocks and he was having late-night telephone chats with a "plummy voiced studio executive", but was false.

"I'd love to hear what their source was if it wasn't phone hacking," he said, while admitting that he had no firm evidence for the allegation.

Grant also accused another tabloid, the Daily Mirror, owned by Trinity Mirror, of accessing his medical records.

Two killed in **SEA Games** footbal final stampede

JAKARTA (AFP) - Two Indonesian football fans died in a stampede in Jakarta last night at the Southeast Asia final Games against Malaysia, according to a report citing a paramedic.

"When we found the victims, they were already dead," paramedic Abdul Majid told Detik.com news portal outside the stadium.

The two men wearing Indonesian red-and-white football team T-shirts were taken to hospital at 8:30 pm, around 90 minutes after the stam pede broke out.

Local media reported that several other spectators had been taken to hospital, including a nine-year-old boy who had fallen into a coma.

Deadly stampedes major sporting, music and religious events are common in Indonesia.

Health & Living

34 million living with HIV after treatment 'gamechanger': UN



GENEVA (AFP) - A significant expansion in access to treatment helped slash the number of AIDS-related deaths in 2010, bringing the number of people living with HIV to a record 34 million, the United Nations said Monday.

"We are on the verge of a significant breakthrough in the AIDS response," said Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS. "New HIV infections continue to fall and more people than ever are starting treatment," he noted.

Speaking to journalists in Berlin for the presentation of the report, Sidibe hailed what he called a "game-changing year."

"For the first time we are able to demonstrate that if you put people early on treatment you can reduce the number of new infections," he said.

About half of those eligible for treatment are now receiving it, with the most dramatic improvement in access seen in sub-Saharan Africa, which recorded a 20-percent jump in people undergoing treatment between 2009 and 2010.

As a result of better access to healthcare, the number of AIDS-related deaths was also falling, said UNAIDS, the UN agency spearheading the inter-

campaign against the disease.

In 2010, 1.8 million deaths were linked to AIDS, down from a peak of 2.2 million last seen in 2006.

estimated "An 700,000 AIDS-related deaths were estimated to have been averted in 2010 alone," added the UN agency.

Not only is treatment helping to prevent new AIDS-related deaths but it is also contributing to a drop

in new HIV infections.

Patients undergoing care were less likely to infect others, as prevention programmes coupled with treatments were proving effective.

Modelling data suggests that "the number of new HIV infections is 30 to 50 percent lower now than it would have been in the absence of universal access to treatment for eligible people living with HIV."

In Namibia for instance, where treatment access reached an all-time high of 90 percent and condom use rose to 75 percent among men, the combined impact contributed to a 60 percent drop in new infections by 2010, noted UN-

"I want to say this report is clearly showing that even in those difficult period (three years of financial crisis) we are still having a result: we have more and more countries which are reducing the number of new infections," said Sidibe.

The UN agency added that the full preventive impact of treatment was likely to be seen in the next five years, as more countries reach high levels of treatment coverage.

"The massive increases in



the numbers of people receiving treatment in South Africa between 2009 and 2010, for example, are likely to be reflected in substantially fewer new infections in the near future," it said.

UNAIDS assessed that even if the AIDS epidemic is not over, "the end may be in sight if countries invest smartly."

"In the next five years, smart investments can propel the AIDS response towards achieving the vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths," it said.

However, the turning point is coming at a time when industrialised nations' public budgets are being squeezed and translating to less international funding for the AIDS re-

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres urged governments to keep up their funding.

"Never, in more than a decade of treating people living with HIV/AIDS, have we been at such a promising moment to really turn this epidemic around," said Tido von Schoen-Angerer, who heads MSF's access campaign.

"Governments in some of the hardest hit countries want to act on the science, seize this moment and reverse the AIDS epidemic. But this means nothing if there's no money to make it happen." Senegal poor pay more



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Ukraine rights envoy raises alarm over Tymoshenko health

KIEV (AFP) - Jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko has "extremely serious" health problems and needs medical treatment outside of prison, the country's human rights envoy said Monday.

Rights ombudsman Nina Karpacheva said she visited Tymoshenko in her Kiev prison cell on Sunday night and was shocked to discover that the 50-year-old former premier was too weak to get out of bed.

"Her condition is extremely serious. She could not get out of bed when talking to me." Karpacheva said in comments released by her office.

Karpacheva however could not say what was wrong with Tymoshenko because it was a "medical secret", her press service added.

Tymoshenko was jailed last month for seven years for abuse of power in a verdict that shocked the West and dented Ukraine's hopes of one day joining the European Union. She has been in prison since August 5.

The one-time Orange Revolution leader frequently complained of various medical ailments during her trial and her true state of health has always remained an explosive political issue.

The Ukrainian prison service announced on November 7 that Tymoshenko had become partially incapacitated after sustaining a back injury "due to her own imprudence"

The parliamentary ombudsman said it was unacceptable that Tymoshenko was now being interrogated by investigators in her jail cell, a circumstance she said had not occurred in Ukraine since the fall of the USSR.

Tymoshenko was originally sentenced on October 11 for abuse of authority for agreeing gas contracts with Russia in 2009 that the authorities say sustained huge losses to the budget.

She has since also been charged with a number of financial crimes in a separate case related to her work as an energy boss in the 1990s.

envoy DAKAR (AFP) - Those living This takes money away

than rich for water: UN

in Senegal's poor, cramped suburbs who have no running water at home can pay up to four times more for water than rich households, a United Nations water and sanitation expert said Monday.

UN special envoy Catarina de Albuquerque, speaking to journalists after a seven-day mission in Senegal, urged the west African nation to boost investment in water and sanitation, as current budgetary allocations are "insufficient".

"Some families who fetch their water from street fountains spend up to 20 percent of their monthly income on water services" while the internationally accepted standard is between three and seven percent, said De Albuquerque, a Portuguese national.

from spending on other priorities such as health and educa-

She noted however that "considerable efforts" made by Senegal in recent years had allowed the country to provide 87.2 percent of the country with running water in 2010 compared to 69 percent in

Alhaji Dieng, an official from the Senegalese Water Company said water coverage in urban areas is 98.5 percent, with street fountains providing for 12.2 percent of this figure.

Africa's westernmost state, Senegal is also one of the continent's most stable governments, however poverty is widespread and unemployment hovers at around 48 per-



Sci-Tech

Climate change: Factfile on the scientific evidence



PARIS (AFP) - Following is a scientific evidence for global warming and its impacts ahead of the November 28-December 9 UN climate talks in Durban, South Africa.

Except where stated, the source is the Fourth Assessment Report published by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007

- -- Evidence of global warming is "unequivocal", with a more than 90-percent probability that humans are largely responsible. The main culprit is greenhouse gas from fossil fuels, which traps solar heat in the atmosphere, warming Earth's surface.
- -- Levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) have risen by around a third since pre-industrial times and are now at their highest in 650,000 years. They surged by 2.3 parts per million (ppm) between 2009 and 2010, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). This was higher than the average for the 1990s (1.5 pppm) and in the past decade (2.0 ppm).
- -- Between 1990 and 2010,

there has been a 29 percent increase in "radiative forcing", meaning the warming effect on our climate system, the WMO said. CO2 in the atmosphere will linger for decades to come, adding to warming even if all emissions stopped tomorrow.

-- Since 1900, sea level has risen by 10-20 centimetres (four to eight inches). Global average surface tem-

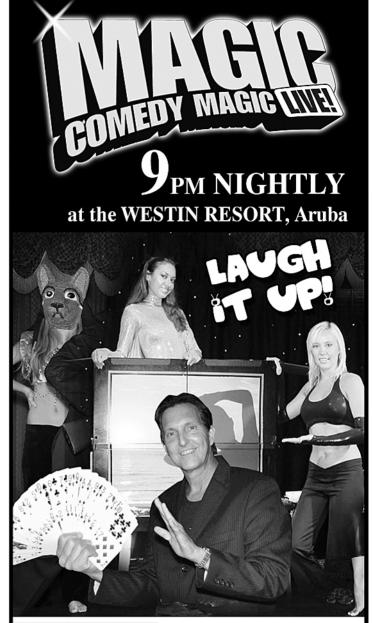
perature has risen by 0.8 degrees Celsius (1.44 degrees Fahrenheit). Average temperatures above land have risen far faster, by 0.91 C (1.64 F) since the mid-20th century, according to the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature Project.

- -- Climate change is already visible in sea-level rise, loss of alpine glaciers and snow cover, shrinking Arctic summer sea ice, thawing permafrost and poleward migration of many animals and plants towards cooler habitats.
- -- By 2100, "best estimates" for the rise in global average surface temperatures run from 2.4-4.0 C (4.3-7.8 F) depending on fossil-fuel use. These figures also mask big variations, according to region and country.
- -- In 2007, the IPCC projected sea levels will rise by at least 18 cms (7.2 inches) by 2100. Since then, many studies point to the risk of meltoff from the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets. Most experts now say a one-metre (39-inch) increase is plausible.

-- 20-30 percent of plant and animal species are threatened with extinction if average global temperatures increase by 1.5-2.5 C (2.7-4.5 F) compared to the average temperature during the two last decades of the 20th century.

-- In Africa, by 2020, up to 75 to 250 million people will be exposed to increased water stress. Yields from rain-fed agriculture in some African countries could be reduced by up to 50 percent. Desert-like areas could expand by five to eight percent by 2080.

- -- In Asia, available fresh water will decrease by midcentury. Coastal mega-deltas will be at risk from flooding due to rising seas. Mortality due to diseases associated with floods and droughts will increase.
- -- Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts and rainstorms are likely to become more frequent and/or intensive, according to an IPCC special report published on November 18.
- -- Stabilising emissions at 445-535 ppm of CO2 equivalent would limit the overall rise in global warming since preindustrial times to 2.0-2.8 C (3.6-5.0 F). Concentrations are currently 389 ppm. A level of 450 ppm corresponds roughly to the target of 2.0 C (3.6 F) embraced at the UN climate talks in Cancun in 2010.
- -- Countries have to close a CO2 "gigatonne gap" to meet the 2.0 C (3.6 F) target. Researchers at the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science at ETH Zurich calculate emissions would have to fall by 8.5 percent by 2020 compared to 2010 and then continue to decline.



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Scanners could reduce number of autopsies - study



PARIS (AFP) - Hi-tech medical scanners could be used to probe causes of death, reducing the need for invasive autopsies that can upset bereaved families, a study published in The Lancet on Tuesday says.

In Britain, post-mortems are ordered in about a fifth of deaths, notably where crime is suspected. The procedure has

changed little over the past century, entailing evisceration and then dissection of the major organs.

Keen to find whether a noninvasive alternative could be used, researchers tested frequency magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and computed tomography (CT) scanners in 182 adult deaths where the corpse was afterwards given an autopsy.

Autopsy was not needed in a third of cases that had been imaged by fMRI and in half of the cases imaged by CT, according to the study.

However, the scanners were not perfect.

They failed to spot, or misattributed, more than two dozen cases of heart disease as well as several dozen cases of embolism, pneumonia and intra-abdominal lesions.

Screening by scanners could identify some of the major causes of death and thus make some autopsies unnecessary, the paper suggests.

It could also identify suspect lesions that would enable pathologists to carry out only a minimal dissection to pinpoint the cause of death.

"When radiologists are confident that the cause of death on imaging is definite, the discrepancy rate between the radiological and autopsy diagnoses is lower and might be acceptable from a medicolegal point of view," says the study, headed by Ian Roberts, a professor of pathology at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

But several practical hurdles must be overcome before any screening becomes routine

Scanners -- diagnostic tools that get cross-sectional or 3-D images of internal organs -- are very expensive and require specialist training to operate them and interpret their results.

"Autopsy is regarded as the gold standard for diagnosis," said James Underwood of the University of Sheffield in a commentary.

"Post-mortem imaging cannot yet be regarded as a universal substitute for autopsy; it is one of several methods available for determining the cause of death."

PICKLES

EARL... SILLY QUESTION... WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS TUBE OF HAIR-SCULPTING









MOMMA





CALVIN and HOBBES









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34. Uses a shuttle

35. Barrymore of "The Wedding

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off

11. Celtic

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- **ACROSS** 1. Butter slices on ice
- 5. Ovaltine flavor 9. Slammin'
- "A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas
- 15. Muddled 16. Oft-imitated
- Peter
- 17. Hourglass filler 18. Tough guy's telltale sign 19. Classic lemon

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- Paris 25. Disruptive
- child 28. British

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- name means "life" 1997 U.S.
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- 39. Asset balance 40. Word on a French map 41. Right-hand page 42. Eastern ideal 47. More hackneyed 19 49. Depended 52. Rocky crag Confound Speaker 55. known as "The Grev Eagle" 56. School subj. Grammy winner Fitzgerald "Maggie's 50 (Dylan) 59. Eye part 60. Judith Anderson's title Actress Linda Major finale

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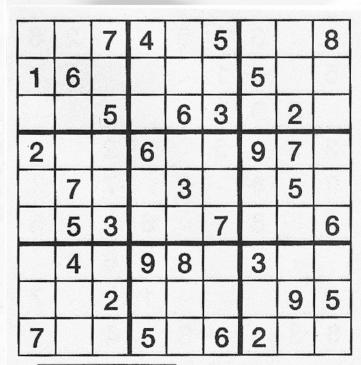
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Sudoku



SOLUTION	1	8	2	9	1	2	6	3	1
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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Rate

1.80

1.002

1.740

2.830

1.9507

2.4210

0.2664

0.3277

0.3112

234.05

<u>Finance</u>

Ex-AIG chief sues US for \$25 bn over takeover

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former American International Group chief Maurice "Hank" Greenberg yesterday sued the US government for \$25 billion over the takeover of AIG at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

In a class action suit, Greenberg alleged that AIG shareholders lost most of their investments when the government unnecessarily took over AIG rather than just aiding it financially for what the lawsuit said was a "temporary liqui-dity" problem.

The lawsuit by Greenberg's Starr International Company charged the US discriminated against AIG and its shareholders, because it had given liquidity support to other large financial institutions rather than taking

them over at the time.

"The government's taking of control over AIG and of AIG equity was deliberately disparate and discriminatory to the government's treatment of others similarly situated," said the suit.

"By deliberately and systematically treating the common stock shareholders differently from others similarly situated without a rational basis for the difference in treatment, the government also acted in violation of the equal protection rights of AIG common shareholders," it said.

Filed in the US Federal Claims Court in Washington, DC, the suit said the bailout, which involved some \$140 billion in investment, loans and guarantees from the US Treasury and the Federal Re-

serve, unnecessarily wiped out 80 percent of the value of investors' shares in AIG.

It asked for damages of not less than \$25 billion, equal to the value of the shares the government received in AIG, based on the \$45.24 share price on January 14, 2011.

The Federal Reserve stepped in to rescue AIG on September 16, 2008, after the company's share price hit a low of \$1.25.

Greenberg ran AIG for nearly four decades, building it into the world's largest insurer with a powerful global network before he was forced out as chief executive and chairman in 2005, when the company was hit with an investigation into accounting fraud

\$1.2 bn missing at failed broker MF Global

NEW YORK (AFP) - Some \$1.2 billion appears to be missing from the customer accounts of failed US broker MF Global, the liquidator of the company said yesterday.

Current as of:

11/21/2011

U.S.A.

Dutch Antilles

Canada

Britiain

Switzerland

Netherlands

Sweden

Denmark

Norway

Japan

(per 10,000)

Code

USD

ANG

CAD

GBP

CHF

EUR

SEK

DKK

NOK

1.77

0.98

1.700

2,720

1.9355

2.3753 2.3969

0.2512 0.2584

0.3125 0.3197

0.2960 0.3032

229.63 231.72

That was about double early estimates of missing client funds when the broker, run by Wall Street high-flyer Jon Corzine, collapsed last month after making huge bad bets on European sovereign debt.

Liquidation trustee James Giddens said that so far he had recovered \$3.7 billion to be returned to clients since MF Global filed for bankruptcy on October 31.

But he said there was an

"apparent shortfall" in funds that the broker's management should have segregated in customer accounts of \$1.2 billion "or more".

Daily change Rates

1.78

1.00

1.720

2.770

1.9427

According to media reports since the bankruptcy filing, regulators are concerned that MF Global management may have tapped customer accounts for money to shore up the company's own finances as worried lenders pulled in credit lines in its final weeks.

Last Thursday the Wall Street Journal reported that high-profile federal attorneys in New York and Chicago have issued subpoenas in their investigations into the broker's collapse.

WTO cuts 2011 world export growth forecast to 5.8%

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Trade Organization yesterday cut its forecast for growth in exports this year to 5.8 percent due to the worsening outlook for the global economy.

"The outlook for the global economy has worsened considerably in recent months," WTO director Pascal Lamy said in his annual report, and called for renewed efforts to break down trade barriers.

"Global activity is slowing down... World trade has grown more slowly than expected in recent months," the report added.

The WTO reduced its forecast for world export growth in 2011 to 5.8 percent from an earlier estimate of 6.5 percent.

Developed economies' exports are now expected to rise by 3.7 percent rather than 4.5 percent, and those from developing countries by 8.5 percent instead of 9.5 percent.

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"In a context of greater economic uncertainty and rising global risks, it is all the more important that the process of global trade opening continues," said Lamy.

WTO members have been labouring for a decade over further trade liberalisation in the Doha round of talks, with industrialised and developing nations failing to agree on the level of cuts on industrial good tariffs and agriculture subsidies.

The report noted a growing perception that trade protectionism is gaining ground in some parts of the world, but said the introduction of new restrictive measures had actually fell.

Indian rupee in striking distance of all-time low

MUMBAI (AFP) - India's rupee yesterday was in striking distance of its all-time low against the dollar as fears about eurozone debt and a slowing economy boosted demand for the US currency.

The Indian unit plunged to a 32-and-a-half-month low of below 52 rupees to the dollar level, losing nearly a rupee or 1.58 percent against the US currency.

Forex dealers said the rupee's fall was due to investors fleeing riskier emerging market and eurozone assets, increasing demand for the dollar which is seen as a safe haven in times of crisis.

But dealers added that the rupee's fall had been exacerbated by the finance ministry's comments yesterday that the Reserve Bank of India had only a "limited" ability to arrest the partially convertible currency's slide.

The rupee ended the day to settle at 52.15/16 rupees against the dollar, just shy of its lowest level of 52.20 rupees to the dollar hit on March 2, 2009 during the previous global financial crisis.

The rupee has tumbled by more than four percent against the dollar in the past six trading days alone.

The Reserve Bank of India was believed to have intervened in the market, according to the Press Trust of India, buying dollars to try to brake the rupee's fall, but there was no comment from the central bank.

The falling rupee is bad news for India, pushing up the price of imports and aggravating inflation which is running at near double digits. Thirteen rate hikes have slowed India's economic growth but made little dent in price rises.

Portugal sees worsening economic outlook for 2012

LISBON (AFP) - Portugal's economy is expected to shrink by 3.0 percent in 2012, a bleaker outlook than the previous estimate of 2.8 percent, the country's finance minister said yesterday. The new forecast tallies with that of the European Commission.

Finance Minister Vitor Gaspar, however, said this year's recession would be slightly less severe than initially forecast, with a contraction of 1.6 percent instead of a predicted 1.9 percent.

Gaspar told colleagues in

parliament to expect "...a better economic performance in 2011 but a greater downturn in 2012."

The revised assessment follows newly released figures from Portugal's national statistics department.

Portugal has seen its GDP drop since the last quarter of 2010. Its economy contracted by 0.4 percent in the third quarter of 2011.

The revised numbers should have no significant impact on the 2012 budget, however, Gaspar added.

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Taylor Swift wins big at American Music Awards



Year award onstage at the 2011 American Music Awards.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) -Country music songstress Taylor Swift was the big winner Sunday at the American Music Awards, walking away with three prizes including Artist of the Year.

British soul diva Adele also won three gongs, while Canadian teen sensation left empty handed at the awards, voted for by fans and announced at a star-studded show in Los Angeles.

Bieber, who was last year's big winner at the AMAs, sang a tune from Christmas-themed album "Under the Mistletoe," but failed to win in the only category in which he was shortlisted, for best pop/rock male artist.

Other winners included Katy Perry, Beyonce and Nicki Minaj, who won both

rap/hip-hop gongs up for grabs.

Adele won in three of the four categories in which she was nominated -- but did not attend the show, in Los Angeles Nokia Theatre, as she is out of action after undergoing throat sur-

But the big news of the night was Swift, who took all three prizes for which she was nominated -- artist of the year, as well as best female artist and best album for "Speak Now" in the country music category.

Swift -- who was named entertainer of the year at the Country Music Awards a few weeks ago, called her AMA triumph "one of the most amazing things that have ever happened to me."

The 21-year-old from Pennsylvania is no stranger to music industry glory: she



LOS ANGELES: Singer Taylor Swift accepts Artist of the Adele was unable to make the show as she is recovering Nicki Minaj won best rap/hipfrom a throat operation.

has son four Grammys, including album of the year last year for her second record "Fearless."

Sharing success in the AMA country music category were fellow serial award winners Lady Antebellum, who won the prize last year and went on to become the big winners at this year's Grammys.

In the soul/R&B category, best female artist went to Beyonce -- who sent her thanks by video message from New York, as she is expecting her first baby, while Usher won best male artist.

Rihanna, who also sent her regards by message, won soul/R&B best album for "Loud."

Nicki Minaj meanwhile beat Lil Wayne and Kanye West to win best rap/hiphop artist, her first AMA --

and then quickly won her hop album for "Pink Fri-

Best new artist went to Hot Chelle Rae, who have already had a hit with "Tonight Tonight"

On the Latin front, Jennifer Lopez took the top prize against a shortlist which also included Pitbull and Enrique Iglesias -- and thanked everyone in English and Spanish.

Californian girl Katy Perry, who performed dressed in pink strumming a pink guitar, seemed surprise when given a special award, for the first artist to have five number one singles from the same album.

"Thanks for letting me be a chameleon this year," said Perry, whose new single, "The one that got Away," is a slower, more



hop artist, her first AMA -and then won her second, and then quickly won her for best rap/hip-hop album second, for best rap/hip-for "Pink Friday."

soulful number than big hits like "I Kissed A Girl" and "California Gurls.'

Here are winners in key categories:

- Artist of the Year: Taylor Swift.

- Best pop/rock female artist: Adele. - Best pop/rock male

artist: Bruno Mars.

- Best rap/hip-hop artist: Nicki Minaj.

- Best soul/R&B male tist: Usher.

- Best soul/R&B female artist: Beyonce.

- Best country female artist: Taylor Swift.

- Best country male artist: Blake Shelton.

- Best Latin artist: Jennifer Lopez.

- Best new artist: Hot Chelle Rae.

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

unique menu.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño pepon) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet worth a visit



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batterdipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without pers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, ever leaving the beach by calltomato...whatever the list goes ing 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely

SPORT

Mariners outfielder Halman killed



ROTTERDAM (AFP) - The Seattle Mariners' Dutch-born outfielder Gregory Halman has been stabbed to death in Rotterdam, police said and his brother has been arrested in connection with the incident.

"We received a report at 5:40 am this morning that there had been a stabbing incident, Rotterdam police spokeswoman Patricia Wessels said.

"A 24-year-old man was found dead and the brother of the victim has been arrested and is being questioned," Wessels added, confirming the identity of the dead man as Halman.

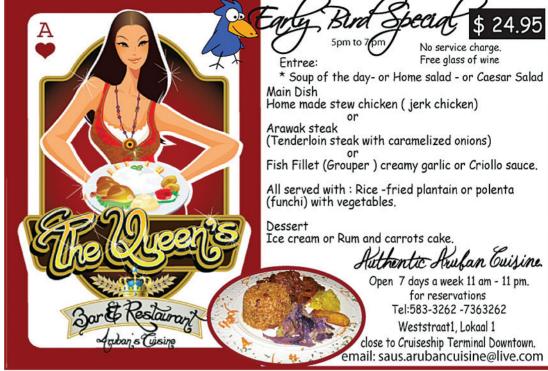
"From what we have learned so far there was an argument between the two brothers over loud music being played," she added.

"An investigation is underway to determine exactly what happened. "It was the victim's girlfriend alerted the police."

Born in Haarlem near Amsterdam, Halman signed up with the Mariners in 2004 and played his first Major League baseball game for the west coast-based team last year, Halman also played in the Dutch Pro League and was part of the gold medal winning Dutch squad at the 2007 European Championship.

Major League Baseball Players Association president Michael Weiner said in a statement that the union was "deeply saddened" to learn of Halman's death.

Leading baseball magazine "Baseball America regards him as the 57th greatest baseball talent at the moment and the greatest talent for the Seattle Mariners.



Aruba Int'l. Beach Tennis continues from page 16

Intermediate Women

1. Andrea Perreira/Carla Nunez (Ven) – Ingrid van Acker/Charlotte Stopel (AUA)

Intermediate Mix

1.Orly Valor/Edward Wong (VEN/AUA) – 2.Bruna Salerno/GiovanniGafar (Brazil) (7-6)

Advanced Men

1.Fabrizio Battaglia/Armando Wester (AUA) - 2. Daniel Daisson/Jose Bruno (Brazil) (7-6)

Advanced Women

1.Dorilis Werleman/Sherrel Werleman (AUA) – 2. Marlous Kosterink/IlonkaNijhuis (AUA)(7-6)

Advanced Mix

1.Bas Jennen/Sanne Jennen (AUA) - 2.Claassen/Ronal Fajado (AUA) (7-5)

Masters (50+)

1. Marcos Sa /Fernando Celso (Bra) - 2. Louis Posner/Adolfo Valbuena (AUA) (7-6)

Pro Women

1.Nadia

Melch (USA) - Julie LaBrit/Virginie Carien (St. Martin) (6-2/6-2)

Pro Men

1.Luca Meliconi/ Matteo Marighella (Ita) - 2. Alessandro Calbucci/ Michele Cappelletti (..../ 7-5)

The Canyon Talent Cup for Junior players was won by Maurice and Matthijs over Aaron Geerinck (Belgium) and Greta (Italy)

Photos show the wild scenes Johnston/Nicole at MooMba Beach on Sunday.

Ferrer shocks Murray



Britain during their group A singles match

LONDON (AFP) - Spain's David Ferrer dented Andy Murray's hopes of winning the ATP World Tour Finals on home turf in London with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over the world number three on Monday.

Ferrer, ranked fifth in world, had lost his last four meetings with Murray but he overwhelmed the Scot with some impressive baseline play to set the pace in Group A.

Murray had won all five of his previous encounters with Ferrer on hard courts, including a victory in the recent Shanghai final that capped the Scot's triumphant Asian tour.

Since losing to Rafael Nadal in the US Open semi-finals, Murray has won 17 of his 18 matches, a remarkable run that brought him titles in Thailand, Japan and China and lifted him above Roger Federer to third place in the world rankings.

But he appeared hindered by a leg injury from midway through the first set at the O2 Arena and was never at ease as Ferrer's fierce competitive instincts kept him off balance.

Murray didn't help his cause with 44 unforced errors and he

will need to improve significantly if he is to qualify for the semi-final from a group that also includes world number one Novak Djokovic and former Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych.

"I'm sorry for the people and for Andy as he is a good friend but I'm happy to win the first game here in London," Ferrer said.

Murray, watched by friend and former heavyweight champion David Haye, landed an early blow as he broke in the third game when Ferrer sent a forehand into the net.

But Ferrer, a finalist in this event back in 2006, hasn't become a mainstay in the top 10 without a ferocious competitive streak of his own and, aided by three Murray errors, he broke straight back in the next game.

Another break point slipped through Murray's grasp at 4-4 and he was made to pay as Ferrer took the set.

The Scot saved one set point at 4-5 but couldn't repel the second as a miscued forehand -- one of a host of uncharacteristic mistakes from Murray -- drifted wide.

Murray called for a medical time-out to get treatment on his left leg during the break between sets.

If his body was feeling the strain, Murray got the perfect balm with a break in the opening game of the second set after Ferrer carelessly netted on break-point.

Once again, the tenacious Ferrer responded impressively and secured a break of his own to level at 2-2

Murray's movement still seemed slightly restricted by his injury, but he found enough rhythm to break Ferrer for a 4-3 lead.

That advantage swiftly disappeared as Ferrer, playing with real aggression from the baseline, broke back in the next game.

Murray just didn't have any answer to Ferrer's metronomic consistency and the Spaniard closed out the match with the decisive break at 5-6.



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Packers stay perfect by beating Bucs

GREEN BAY (AFP) - Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes and the Packers remained the National Football League's only undefeated team with a 35-26 triumph over visiting Tampa Bay on Sunday.

Rogers connected with Jordy Nelson on a 40-yard touchdown pass with 2:55 remaining to secure the victory, which improved the Packers to 10-0. The Buccaneers, who suffered their fourth loss in a row, fell to 4-6.

Rodgers threw for 299 yards and also had 5-yard touchdown passes in the second quarter to Tom Crabtree and Nelson to help give the



James Starks #44 of the Green Bay Packers carries the ball against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

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Packers a 21-10 half-time lead.

But Josh Freeman threw for 342 yards and two fourthquarter touchdowns for Tampa Bay, which kept the pressure on Green Bay until the final minutes.

The Packers have little time to enjoy the victory as they will travel to Detroit for a game on Thursday, the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Detroit rallied at home to beat Carolina 49-35 with Matthew Stafford completing 28-of-36 passes for 335 yards and five touchdowns, the last of them a 7-yarder to Brandon Pettigrew with 2:32 to play for the go-ahead score.

Carolina's Cam Newton surrendered the last of his four interceptions on the next play from scrimmage and the Lions scored the final points on a 19yard Kevin Smith run to seal the victory. The Lions, 7-3, became the first NFL team in more than 60 years to win three times in one season after trailing by 17 or more points.

San Francisco, second overall in the NFL this season to Green Bay, kept pace with the Packers, improving to 9-1 with a 23-7 home victory over Arizona. The 49ers have the largest division lead, five games over Seattle in the NFC West.

Alex Smith threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter and David Akers kicked three first-half field goals to spark the 49ers.

Matt Moore threw three touchdown passes to power host Miami over Buffalo 35-8 for the Dolphins' third win in a row after an 0-7 start.

The Bills dropped their third game in a row and also lost NFL rushing leader Fred

Jackson in the third quarter with a leg injury.

Another NFL loser suffered a major injury to a running back on Sunday as host Minnesota fell 27-21 to Oakland and played without Adrian Peterson for most of the game after he left with a second-quarter injury to his left ankle.

Carson Palmer threw for 164 yards and a touchdown while Michael Bush rushed for 109 yards and a touchdown for Oakland, which improved to 6-4.

But the Raiders suffered a scare of their own when receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey was carted off the field with a neck injury. He was moving his limbs after the game, Raiders coach Hue Jackson said."He's going to be fine," Jackson said. "But obviously we have to take all the precautionary measures to make sure."

Joe Flacco threw for 270 yards and two touchdowns while Ray Rice ran for 104 yards and two touchdowns to power Baltimore past Cincinnati 31-24, allowing the host Ravens to take a share of the AFC North division lead at 7-3.

Dan Bailey kicked a 39-yard field goal 9:21 into overtime to give Dallas a 27-24 victory at Washington, lifting the Cowboys to 6-4 while the Redskins fell to 3-7 with their sixth loss in a row, their longest win drought since 1998.

Dallas moved into a share of the NFC East lead when the New York Giants fell to 6-4 after losing 17-10 to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Philadelphia's Vince Young flipped an 8-yard touchdown pass to Riley Cooper with 2:45 to play to cap an 18-play drive and provide the winning points.

Chicago's Jay Cutler threw for 286 yards and two touchdowns to spark the Bears to their fifth win in a row, a 31-20 triumph over visiting San Diego that stretched the Chargers' losing streak to five games.

In other games, Cleveland edged Jacksonville 14-10, Seattle beat St. Louis 24-7 and Atlanta defeated Tennessee 23-17.



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Aruba International Beach Tennis Event at MooMba Beach was out of this world





"Are you from earth?" asked emcee/tournament organizer Sjoerd de Vries to the two teams of Italian professional Beach Tennis players, who stunned a large, wildly enthusiastic crowd with their outrageous, outstanding and out-ofthis-world athletics on the center court at MooMba Beach last Sunday evening. "This is sick," added emcee Marty frequently when the crowd oohed and aahed, cheered and applauded for Luca Melliconi Matteo Marighelli, Alessandro Calbucci and Michele Capeletti, the top four ranked Beach Tennis players in the world. Before the Pro Men finals, the Pro Ladies had entertained the audience, with the USA winning the title for the time over St. Martin/France. After the last ball had been played, the entire crowd went to dance on the sandy center court, celebrating a super great international happening that will stand out in everybody's mind for a long time to come.

Everyone went through the roof for the first time late Sunday afternoon when Aruban team Fabrizio Battaglia/Armando Wester won the tough against Daisson/Jose Bruno from Brazil in a sizzling finale that could compete with a fireworks display. The Arubans came back from way behind to take the title of Advanced Men in a tie-break that had all the ingredients of a thriller. It was a superb match with a good dose of goose bump factor!

But actually, the entire tournament was filled with great fun and drama, starting with the singles event on Thursday, the Nations Cup on Friday, the Bula Junior event with sixty young players and the doubles matches, which had 400 participants run, dive, sweat, cry, laugh and scream from early morning until late at night. It was a fabulous happening, sponsored by Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe, Alno Kitchen and Avis Car Rental. And all the participants, especially the winners, vowed to come back for the 2012 edition of the Aruba International Beach Tennis Event. An emotional

Luca Melliconi recapped after his victory: "Aruba is my favorite tournament in the world; I promise I'll be back!"

Results Aruba International Beach Tennis Event

Fun/Intermediate Men

1. Chicco/Carlo (Italy) – 2. Celso Campaharo/Andre Encarna (Brazil) (7-2)

Fun Women

1.Gabriela Prinzen/Suze Binken (AUA) – 2.Kim Vogel/Els Vaessen (AUA) (7-5) Fun Mix

1.Francisco da Silva/Rosana da Silva(Brazil) – 2.Dave Hales/Cavonne Hales (USA) (7-1) continues on page 14

